

UNITY

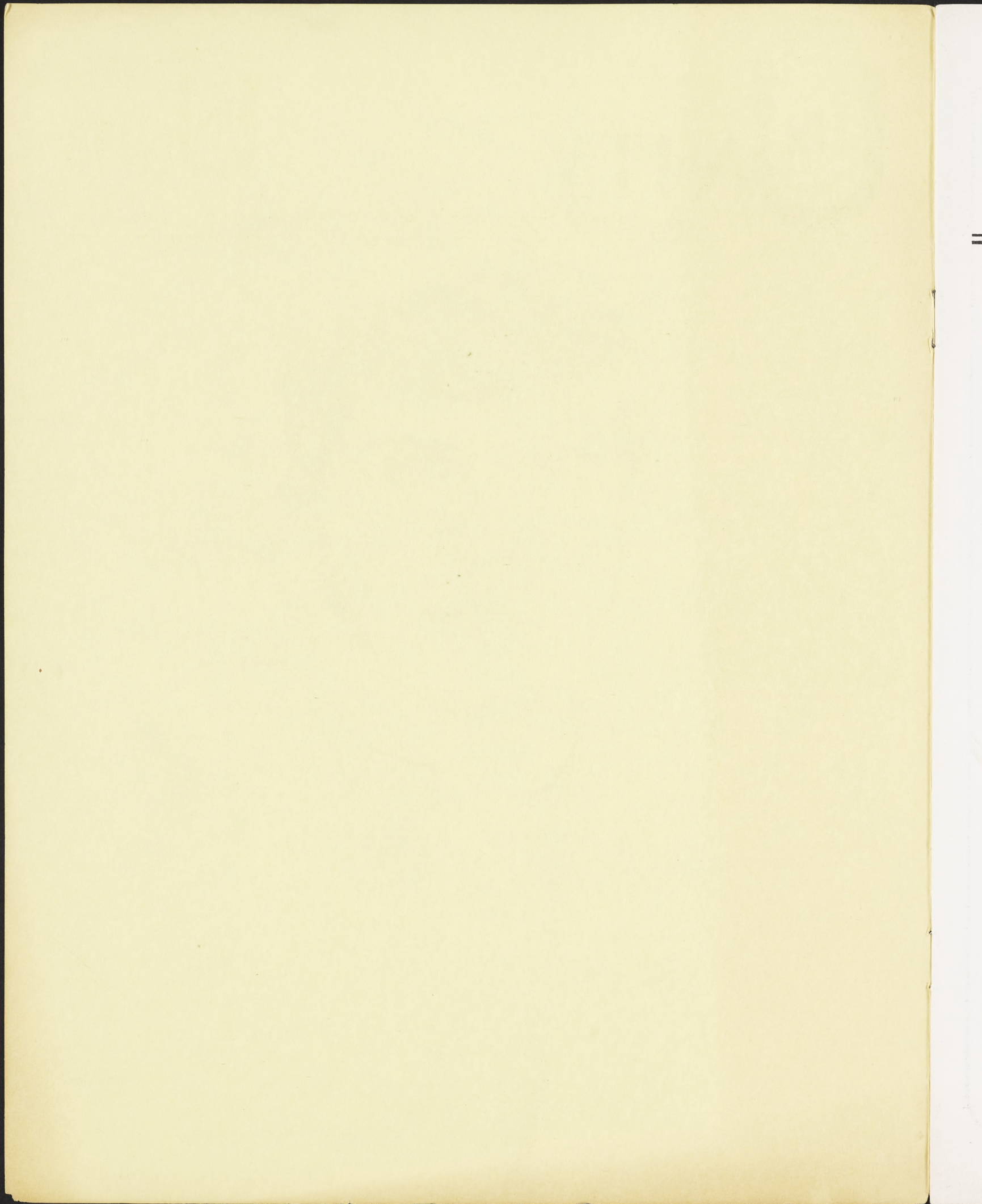
A METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH PUBLICATION

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UNITY

A PUBLICATION OF METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH, INC. — Reverend TROY D. PERRY, Pastor & Founder

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Sketch by....DON BACHADY

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Dear Readers:

Metropolitan Community Church is very pleased to present the first issue of In Unity Magazine. We hope In Unity will stimulate your interest and that our concentrated effort to be of service in the areas of Religion and the homosexual, civic commentary, entertainment, fashion, travel and food, will provide information and education, and a source of good reading.

Many new and well known writers and experts have been solicited and will be joining our local staff of reporters and contributors, in offering you a wide variety of material for your reading enjoyment. And, through our selected advertisers, a reference for your service needs will be at your fingertips; arranged and displayed in a manner that will enhance your reading pleasure.

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Thank you very much for purchasing this our first issue and we invite you to subscribe now, for the convenience of postal delivery to your door. Please complete the coupon below and include your check or money order for \$6.50, for twelve monthly issues.

Yours truly,

Robert Lee Ennis, Jr.

Editor-in-Chief



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An Editorial

BOX OFFICE ACCEPTANCE

"This past year has been the year during which homosexuals came out into the world. There are no accurate statistics on the homosexual population, nor is there.. any definite diagnosis of the causes of homosexuality, but there is one definite fact: the general public has developed a tolerance for, indeed an interest in, this subculture. Tolerance is reflected in recent court rulings, and in Government task force reports, favoring greater civil rights for homosexuals. The average person's interest in homosexuality is reflected in our entertainment and literary worlds. Books are written and movies and plays produced about homosexuality for one main reason: people want to read them and will go see them and the financial reports prove this acceptance."

The above speech was part of the introduction by Piers Anderton, KNBC newsman, at the beginning of the "CLOSE UP" look into the world of homosexuality, recently shown on that station in Los Angeles. Those of us who were fortunate enough to see this eight-part series, I am sure, will agree, that never before have we been looked at so closely. They showed us as we are, and helped us to make some points; and with great expertise...blew the sails from under a long list of myths, which have been the basis of much of our ill treatment.

A large segment of the population of the greater Los Angeles area, has had an opportunity to look us over.. and lend an ear. And, as some have said, a great service has been afforded them. Sympathy, ampathy, interest, concern and hate are the results of this courageous project of Mike Gavin, producer and Piers Anderton, commentator. In some areas there is the start of a great changing of attitudes. People here-to-fore afraid to lift their voices; are now ringing out in discussions, debates and arguments. Letters and phone calls are pouring into the offices of KNBC, both pro and con. They have looked us over and they are talking!

In looking us over, I wonder if they saw what I saw? Yes, that's right! Two separate worlds! The world of the female and the world of the male! We are on a great campaign for equality...in a world that has denied us for centuries...and in order to apply equality, we must be weighed together. A unit is much easier to place on the scales, than a loose and fragmented substance. Let's do our thing IN UNITY!

NEWS & VIEWS OF THE HOMOSEXUAL
AND THE HOMOPHILE MOVEMENT OF
PARTICULAR INTEREST TO WOMEN

THE LADDER

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DEL & JUDY

The Pastor Speaks

A LETTER FROM A HOMOSEXUAL TO THE CHURCH

I am not a creature from the outer darkness, as you seem to believe. I am a homosexual and like most of the members of your Churches, a man of flesh and blood. I am a member of the Church...and an integral part of its people!

I have a few things to say. Because I am not a diplomat, I do not have to mince words, nor do I have to please you or even persuade you. I owe you very little. You did not create this body; you do not live in it; you do not have to defend it when individuals try to destroy it, and I will not let you tell me what I can do with it!

Because of my sexual orientation, you try to condemn me. For two thousand years I have watched you try to destroy my brothers and sisters. Many homosexuals have had trials of "cruel mocking and scorching, yea, moreover, of bonds and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sown asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword; they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented; people of whom the world was not worthy."

You have watched as we were placed on the rack, thrown to the flames, banished from the midst of society, and you have never said a word! Your heart cried out when after almost four hundred years, you saw the plight of the black people in this country. When the water hoses, cattle prongs, and dogs were used on black men, women and children, a muffled scream escaped your throats. At once your blind eyes opened to some of the social injustices around you. You marched with Dr. Martin Luther King in Birmingham, Washington D. C., Selma and then that day in Memphis. That day in Memphis your eyes became a fountain of tears. The mighty had fallen and you wept!

Sometimes you still weep. For the American Indians, for the Mexican Americans, and for the lonely child-soldiers...on both sides, that are dying in a dirty little war in Viet Nam.

But what of the homosexuals? Did you weep when one was beaten to death by the Police in Los Angeles? When another was shot in the back and killed in a park in Berkeley? And another imprisoned for life in Florida? Does it upset you that there are riots in New York...and that homosexuals demonstrating for their rights in California are arrested for demanding their civil rights? If it does, you have not shown it. Jesus said, "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold or hot; I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth."

Oh! Church, if only you would keep the teachings that were delivered to you..."Love the Lord thy God with all your heart, mind, strength, and your neighbor as yourself..."...but you haven't. You have rejected the homosexual...and now...for the most part he has rejected you!

I am thankful that I still have a God. You cannot take Him away from me! He is the Author and Finisher of my Faith. His name is spelled LOVE ! L O V E !!!

Church...If you will not let me worship Him in your Temples; I will worship Him in the Cathedral of my heart, and build for Him a Temple where others can worship with me.

Church...it is you that left me, not me who has left you. You would try to make me believe that He does not care for me, but I know; "though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me!"

Oh! Bride of Christ! I pray that you will wake up and call ALL of your CHILDREN back to your bosom and soul. Back home to family and friends and loved ones. Church, only you can make that possible!

Fray D. Perry

THE UGLY HOMOSEXUAL.

BYA. CRAIG

The problem of the ugly homosexual is one of the most important and constant problems of the 'gay subculture'. By ugly, I also include the fat, the thin, and most of those past the age of forty; and all of these probably include a majority of male homosexuals.

When we really get down to it, there is only one criterion of value in the homosexual subculture...physical beauty. Everything else...wealth, fame, personality, intellect, skill, or even the ability to be a kind and loving person, is nothing compared to physical beauty. An attractive, but moronic youth is everything, an older, but brilliant scientist...nobody at all! There have been historic examples of where Princes lost kingdoms by placing moronic lovers into positions of power.

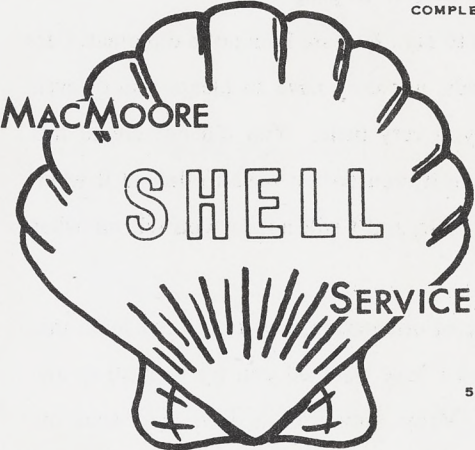
But, is the glory of man....his body? The body is transitory; all of us, even the most beautiful of youths grow old, and with age we become ugly. The glory of man lies in his mind, and it is only then that we really separate from the animals. Any society which glories only upon the body (male or female); misses the essential spiritual humanity of man and becomes incapable of love.

The longer I have grown to know numbers of male homosexuals, the greater my feelings of rejection against them have become. Most of them have formed arrogant corps of effete snobs, who live meaningless lives in an artificial cafe society, dwelling endlessly on the most trivial of rumor and gossip. They seem like bloodless and mechanical corpses whose behavior may be perfectly predicted in advance, with almost Fabiovian precision.

For a long time, I maintained the myth that most male homosexuals did not really suffer from any severe psychotic disorder. Although, I remain unconvinced that all of them suffer from dis-abling mental problems, I have changed my views and now believe that a significant number of male homosexuals suffer from such emotional problems that they cannot really function in society. Their homosexuality is possibly the result of severe emotional deprivation during childhood, for the typical example of which I write, seems to support the incapability of maintaining real emotional and loving...relationships with others, male or female. Most male homosexuals simply cannot love others. As we are reminded constantly, we are rejected by the heterosexual community; I do not believe that this is as important as the rejection which we have for one another.

Straight society, unlike the homosexual 'subculture', in most cases, judges a man by his deeds, not mere physical beauty. I believe that humanistic values and Christian virtue hold much higher value among heterosexual males. And, the result has been that I increasingly find myself joining the heterosexuals in attacking the homosexual value system and the personality types it produces. This does not mean that I have turned against my homosexual brothers...that would be hypocritical. But, until I find that most male homosexuals have something more behind them than a little suntan oil, I will not hesitate to say that the homosexual subculture is a sick one, and the major contributing factor to a false and sick value system.

Some social scientist have said that complaint is an important feature of the male homosexual. Therefore I maintain the image...with intent!



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The Easter Sermon

Religion is basically a mystical experience. Simultaneously in the far corners of Asia...a mystic land...the great religions of the world were emerging. These religious movements were distinct from the pantheism of the Greeks and Romans.

As Buddha, Confucius, Lao-Tse, Mohammed and Jesus (with Moses and Abraham as forerunners) philosophized about God...many became one, and the one was the divine mystery. Whether you accept the Judaic-Islamic viewpoint of God as the ALL EVERYTHING or the Hindu concept of God as the ALL NOTHINGNESS, it is somehow necessary that somehow...God reveals Himself.

God must reveal Himself to man, since man is incapable of truly comprehending God. Down through the years, man has sought to know, to understand God. No man can know who God is. The cleverest scholar knows nothing more concerning God than the simplest man. There dwells of course, within every human heart a feeling of something higher than itself, a dim apprehension of a Power ruling all that is, and giving His law to all that is, is shown by the history of mankind and by everyday life. What variety of ideas men have of "God" and "the divine"...and how many have no conception of the matter whatsoever. Who dare to say, "I know who God is." I know His plans and purposes?" This much we know of God; He is the great mystery. And we know something else, even though obscurely, that things are not well between God and ourselves. We cannot dismiss either one, the darkness surrounding God, and the darkness in ourselves. Can it be that both are the same?

But...out of all this welter, this search for something meaningful in life, comes a truly stupendous religious phenomena...unlike anything one has seen before or since.

God chooses to reveal Himself to mankind. He does it through His VERY SPECIAL SON "JESUS". He is showing us that God does work through people. Even in the revelation of HIMSELF, He comes upon history's scene as a man. Indeed, a most exemplary man, unlike any before or since.

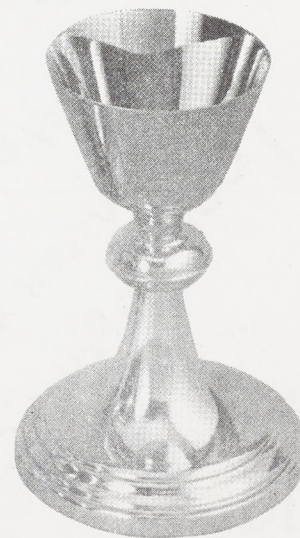
Another new and different concept is introduced to many by God through Jesus, sacrificial love. By giving his life for mankind, Jesus demonstrates God's willingness to "go the extra mile." And so, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. "For in the beginning was the WORD, and the WORD was with God, and the WORD was God, and the WORD became flesh and dwelt among us. "For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son." Thus, God reveals himself.

God speaks to us
He says life is good
He says you can be born again
He shows us he cares.

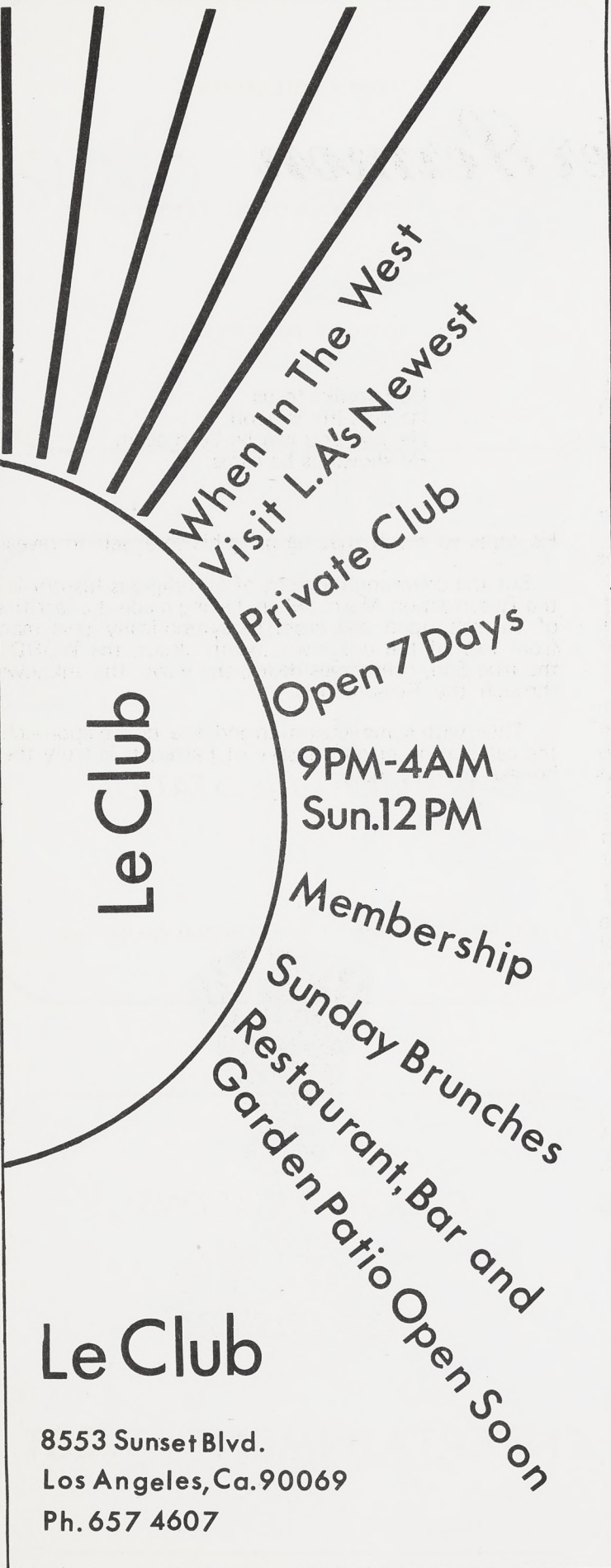
He cares so much that he gives his total self to reveal.

But the crowning moment of all religious history is the Resurrection Morn...when, having made the sacrifice of Himself upon the cross to symbolically save man from fear of the unknown...death. Jesus; the WORD, the true Son, overcomes death, the grave, the unknown through the Resurrection.

Thus, with some veneration and awe; do we approach, the celebration or anniversary of Easter. It is truly the holiest of holy days.



REVEREND JOHN HOSE, Assistant Pastor



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THE CRUST OF HYPOCRISY

One cannot help but admire the people of Israel, regardless of one's political views. The fact that in 1948 a few thousand Jewish refugees stood up on their feet before the onslaught of forty million Arabs to declare their right to be human beings and have a country of their own, made the world pause and take note, and give respect to a people with a seemingly hopeless cause. After all, didn't six million of their brothers and sisters march meekly into the gas chambers? Why should anything more be expected of the Jews? Today, we all know the results of the Jewish people's dream. They declared that they were not going to be the fall guy on the stage of the world, directed by the opinion of the world's societies. But more importantly, they declared unto themselves, that as children of God, they had as much right to decide their destiny as individuals and as a People...as any other peoples. They found their inner-strength not through hatred of the Arabs, but through the realization of their right to their destiny...a destiny.

Today, the homosexual has the potential to develop such an inner strength...and that strength is the realization of God's love for him. How many of us are living lives that are a mockery to our true selves? How many of us use our sexual preference as an excuse for failure? How many of us have developed prejudices against our homosexual brother and sisters, in order to delude ourselves that "we really aren't like them" and to convince ourselves that in order to fit into a "straight" society we must build a straight image around ourselves and within ourselves? How many of us have had our carefully-constructed image of ourselves burst by a pinprick of self doubt in the unguarded moment? How many times have we picked up the pieces of our lives and put them back together with the temporary binding forces of non-involvement, irrational prejudice, avoidance of introspection, and self-imposed imagery, just to have them to fall apart again with the first confrontation with reality? It gets a little exhausting, doesn't it?

So here we are...picking up the meager scraps of condescension that society is willing to toss to us and being equally willing to accept the lashes of social ostracism. Where do we go from here? The Bible says that we are all children of God and that we are all equal before His presence. Let us investigate for a moment this inherent relationship with our Heavenly Father. If we are indeed

by HOWARD WELLS MCC San Francisco, California

children of God, then we are potentially just as deserving of His love, are we not? We are equally subject to His guidance and concern. He is just as accessible to us through prayer as He is to anyone else. It is up to each individual to take advantage of the innumerable gifts that God has to offer...all the individual must do is to put unqualified faith in his expectation that God is going to look after him. It sounds too simple, too good to be true, too inconceivable, that the Creator of all Existence truly cares about each individual...it really staggers the imagination!

But, once the individual is able to truly overcome his incredulity, he will find his life showered with blessings. More importantly, he will find a strength in his life being manifested by his love not only for others, but for himself. He will find a freedom and joy in living that will seem to have no bounds, because God lives in him through love. This means that as homosexuals, we have the capacity to be Christians also. No one but God has the authority to declare otherwise!

The founders of our nation were expatriates of their own societies. When they came over to this land, they cast off their chains of self-imposed characterizations and delved into themselves to seek for new wells of strength. They were astonished at the abundance of strength that they found...they found themselves...and they built the greatest nation the world has ever seen.

Brothers and sisters, I now call on you to shuck off your cloak of imagery and discover the strength of self-respect and brotherly love that is hidden beneath. I do not say that you must rid yourself of the straight image that you might have built around you...only you are in a position to determine to what degree you can do that. But, I do strongly advocate your ridding your self of the image that you have built within yourself. Only when the crust of hypocrisy and self-delusion is broken-through, can your hidden strengths manifest themselves. Start now, to build a relationship with God, because only through His love will you be able to stop being a label and start being a person. Only with the implementation of your potential ability to relate to yourself and to other people through love, will you cease being part of the problem that sickens this world; you then, become part of the solution.

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SUNDAY BRUNCH

by Lee Rubio, MCC Social Director

During the past year, the Metropolitan Community Church Social Department has given and prepared many small dinners and several large banquets. As a result quite a few people have come to us seeking recipes and instructions. The editor of In Unity asked me to present some of our ideas and preparations, I was very happy, for this way we can reach more people, in the hope that we can be of service.

This month the feature is an inexpensive main course that we served at one of the South Central Parish dinners, and it was received with great favor.

BEEF SHANKS AND VEGETABLES

1 LARGE BEEF SHANK PER PERSON
1 CARROT PER PERSON
½ LARGE ONION PER PERSON, QUARTERED
½ MEDIUM POTATO PER PERSON
1 BAY LEAF
¼ TSP. SPICE ISLAND BOQUET GARNI FOR BEEF
2 OR 3 TBL. SPOONS KITCHEN BOQUET OR SOY SAUCE
1 CUP ROSE' OR RED TABLE WINE
SALT AND PEPPER TO TASTE

In a large Dutch oven or kettle, brown the meat well in oil. Add the onions, bay leaf, spices, Kitchen Boquet or soy sauce and wine. Bring to a boil, cover and let it simmer for 2½ to 3 hours, or until meat is tender. (If a pressure cooker is used, cook for about 35 minutes). Place carrots and potatoes in the pot 20 to 30 minutes before serving.



Just prior to serving, remove the meat and vegetables to a serving dish, that has been warmed, and thicken the gravy with corn starch and serve as a side dish.

To compliment this main dish, we recommend Spiced Corn. Just heat canned or fresh frozen whole kernel corn as directed on the package. Drain the liquid, and add ½ to 1 tsp. of Spice Island Boquet Garni for Beef and a large portion of butter. Stir until the butter is melted; cover and let stand for about 5 minutes, garnish with chopped parsley and serve.

We hope that this menu will bring you the highest of praise, and for an extra added touch, serve a slightly chilled heavy burgundy wine.

My staff and I invite you to write to us, your ideas and inquires about food preparation, serving and buying. With our constant researching, we are certain that we can be of help to you and also learn from you. So, when you have a problem or an idea, write us in care of In Unity Magazine.

Until next month, we wish you good dining and good health.

THE SECOND ANNUAL

MCC

Fabulous

MAY

FESTIVAL

Congratulations

ALL HAVE A SHARE IN THE BEAUTY,
ALL HAVE A PART IN THE PLAN.
WHAT DOES IT MATTER WHAT DUTY
FALLS TO THE LOT OF MAN?
SOMEONE HAS BLENDED THE PLASTER,
AND SOMEONE HAS CARRIED THE STONE;
NEITHER THE MAN NOR THE MASTER
EVER HAS BUILT ALONE.
MAKING A ROOF FROM THE WEATHER,
OR BUILDING A HOUSE FOR THE KING,
ONLY BY WORKING TOGETHER
HAVE MEN ACCOMPLISHED A THING.

Author Unknown

IN UNITY

MATTHEW OF GLENDALE

GOD BLESS & GOD SPEED

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

DON HUGHES · TOM PURCELL

THE OPEN FORUM

The Alcoholic Beverage Control Board
320 North Vermont Avenue
Los Angeles, California

Gentlemen:

This letter is a notification to file a complaint against a business known as BARNEY'S BEANERY, which is located at 8447 Santa Monica Blvd., in Los Angeles, which is currently posting for a liquor license.

I am the Pastor of the Metropolitan Community Church, a church which outreaches into the homophile community of the greater Los Angeles area. And, while my church is not located in the area of this noted bar and restaurant; many of the members of the Church do live in the area.

I am filing this complaint because of a very offensive sign that is displayed in the place of business that reads "FAGGOTS STAY OUT." This sign is evidently directed at members of the homophile community..... and it rates, in my opinion with the same type of signs displayed some twenty five years ago, in other establishments of Los Angeles, that made reference to the race, color and creed of individuals, such as; WHITE ONLY, NIGGERS STAY OUT and NO MEXICANS OR DOGS ALLOWED IN THE BUILDING.

This sign is a direct violation of some of our civil rights laws, enacted in the State of California and also the Federal Laws. And, as a citizen of the State of California, residing in Los Angeles, I herein petition for a hearing in this matter.

Looking forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Very truly yours,

Reverend Troy D. Perry, Pastor
Metropolitan Community Church

EDITOR'S NOTE: On March 17, 1970 Rev. Perry received a letter and a telephone call from the ABC, stating that there shall be a hearing in the matter, to

stating that there shall be a hearing in the matter, to which he is invited, and permission was granted to include his attorney.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

ENCORE THEATRE

Coffee Hour 10:00 A M

Worship Service 11:00 A M

The Metropolitan

Community Church Testimonial

Looking back now it is hard to remember all that led me to do what I did. Suffice it to say, that I felt trapped. I had not had work for a couple of months, and I did not know where to go nor what to do. I did not know where to turn for help. But, I had read of Metropolitan Community Church in the Los Angeles Advocate, and decided to go to one of the services and maybe I would be able to get some help.

One Sunday in September, 1969, I first attended the services at the Encore Theatre in Hollywood. I enjoyed the service tremendously and I enjoyed being in a Church again, after an absence of five years. I had not attended any Church during these five years, not because I couldn't, but rather, because I am very introverted among people I don't know, and I find it hard to get myself to go anywhere for the first time. Had I not been so desperate, I probably would never have attended Metropolitan Community Church, and that would have been the greatest tragedy of my life.

I did not know just what to expect when I first arrived, but, having read of the Church in the Advocate, I knew that most of the people were "gay" and I had never known anyone who was gay, so I was a bit apprehensive about what I would find. But, what I found was people who believe in God and in helping their fellow human beings...wonderful people!

I came for help, but I didn't know how or to whom to speak. I wanted to ask Reverend Troy Perry for help, but with about three hundred people about, I couldn't. I shook hands with Reverend Perry and he said, "God bless you, Jeff" (I had a name tag on my coat); but I didn't ask for help as I had wanted to do.

I stayed in Hollywood that Sunday night and wrote to Reverend Perry, telling him that I had been at the service that day, and that I had come to get help, but didn't know how. I said that the only way I knew to straighten things out was to kill myself. It is embarrassing now, to think I would do something so foolish. But, Monday morning I mailed my letter, bought some sleeping pills and took the bus for home, with everything planned.

When I got home I took the thirty-six pills and went to bed. It is funny, but I was not afraid, in fact, I didn't really believe I would die. The only thing that worried me, was if I should die, is the fact, that God has put me on this earth to do something and I had failed Him. Well, I didn't die...I didn't even get sleepy. And when my Mother came home we had a terrible fight (she didn't know that I had taken the pills, until the next day). So, I took a heaping handful of aspirins, thinking; "God, you saved me once today, if You really want me to live, please save me again," He did, and the next morning I was a bit dizzy, but by the afternoon, I was fine.

Reverend Perry received my letter Tuesday morning and was very upset. He phoned one of the Deacons of the Church, Leo Hunt, and Leo telephoned Karen, the Deaconess of the Long Beach Parish, and asked her to meet him at my home that afternoon. I was extremely embarrassed, knowing they probably knew what I did, and I didn't know how to introduce them to my Mother when she came home. Leo and Karen took me to the Parsonage, where I met so many wonderful people, and Reverend Troy Perry. I saw everyone working together fixing

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**Hollywood
Encore**

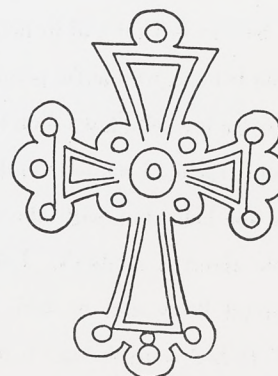
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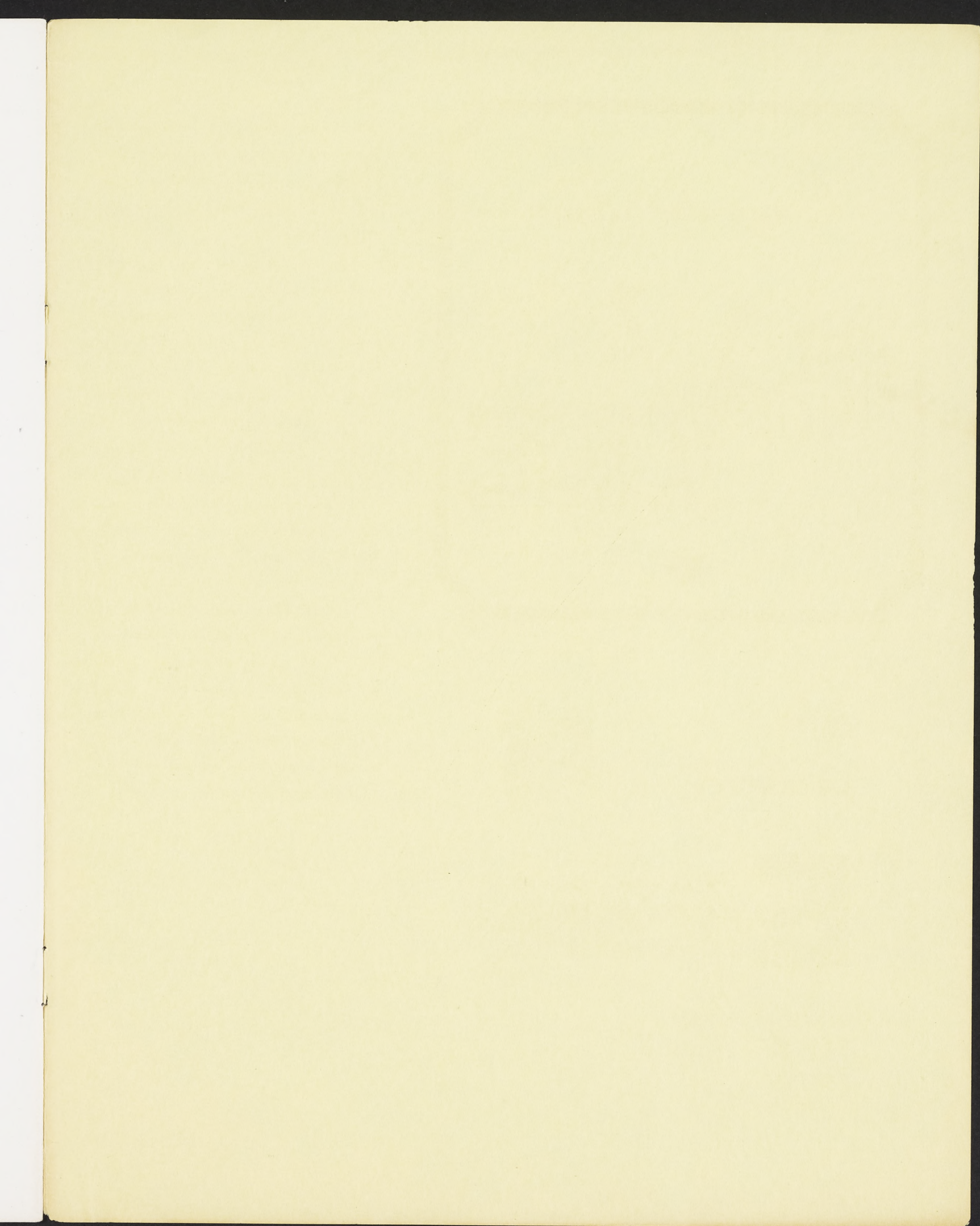
**FREE
PARKING**

up the Parsonage, sanding the floors and scraping and painting. It was great to see all these people working together and taking an active part in the Church that was theirs. It impressed me very much!

Later that evening, Karen and Leo took me to a meeting of the counseling committee. It did my heart so much good to see all those people, working on a completely voluntary basis, who set-up a twenty-four hour counseling service for anyone with problems. I knew that here were people who really cared about helping others. I couldn't help but want to be a part of Metropolitan Community Church!

I started coming to MCC regularly. I joined the Choir and the Communication With The Deaf Class. I've made so many friends and I know that I never need to be afraid to ask for help again! I have a Church to go to, and I am very glad of that! I can sing and that makes me Happy! And, I have two very special friends who have become my confidants, two whom I look upon as brothers, and can share all my happiness and secrets with. Two with whom I can be open and honest with, who advise me, and care about me and help me. AND, I THANK GOD!!!





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